

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 63

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 82

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 63—Relative to the Justice Joseph A. Rattigan Building.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 11, 1996.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 63, M. Thompson. Justice Joseph A. Rattigan Building.

This measure would redesignate the Santa Rosa State Office Building in the City of Santa Rosa as the Justice Joseph A. Rattigan Building.

The measure would also request the Department of General Services to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers showing this designation, and upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those plaques and markers.

WHEREAS, The Honorable Justice Joseph Austin Rattigan was born on January 24, 1920, and grew up in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C., earning his A.B. degree from the Catholic University of America, and eventually working as a junior economist in the Farm Security Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Immediately following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he entered the United States Navy, where he first served as an intelligence officer in Central and South America and then entered combat as captain of a PT boat; and

WHEREAS, He distinguished himself repeatedly in seven campaigns, serving in combat areas in the southwest Pacific, New Guinea, Molucca, and the Philippine Islands, and was decorated for bravery under fire; and

WHEREAS, Following the war, Justice Rattigan graduated from Stanford University School of Law and was admitted to the practice of law in the State of California, and later was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 1958 he was elected to the office of state Senator, serving two consecutive terms from 1959 to 1966, inclusive, where he chaired the Senate Committee on Local Government, and earned a reputation for his keen intellect, driving work ethic, and unwavering integrity; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure in the Senate he authored legislation establishing Sonoma State College, and was the principal architect of the Rattigan-Burton Act, a pre-Medicare law that

established California's first and the nation's largest program providing medical and hospital care to senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, In 1966, following his decision to retire from the California Senate, he was appointed Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal for the First Appellate District by Governor Edmund G. Brown; and

WHEREAS, During his 18 years on the Court of Appeal, Justice Rattigan distinguished himself as one of California's leading jurists, personally writing more than 1,000 appellate decisions and participating in more than 3,000 others; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of Justice Rattigan's standing in the legal community, command of the law, and commitment to the pursuit of justice, he was appointed by the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court to serve two terms as a member of the California Judicial Council, the body that manages the administration of justice at all court levels throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, In 1977 Justice Rattigan again served his country by participating as one of three delegates representing the United States at a United Nations Convocation on Criminal Justice; and

WHEREAS, In 1989, following his retirement from the Court of Appeal, Justice Rattigan was appointed by Secretary of State March Fong Eu to serve on the Fair Political Practices Commission, serving a full four-year term as the only former legislator, and the only former judge to serve on the five-member commission; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, the 600-plus members of the Sonoma County Bar Association presented Justice Rattigan with the first annual "Careers of Distinction Award," an honor that was only equaled by the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws conferred upon Justice Rattigan by Sonoma State University in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Although now retired from office, Justice Rattigan continues in public service as a member of the board of directors of numerous nonprofit and philanthropic organizations in Sonoma County and northern California; and

WHEREAS, During his very long and active involvement in civic affairs, Justice Rattigan served the State of California with distinction in the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of government, as well as at the city and county levels; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his life, both private and public, with courage and dedication, through conscientious and devoted service to his nation and to his state, in war and in peace, Justice Rattigan has proven himself to be a born leader; and

WHEREAS, Few men or women have distinguished themselves in service to the State of California to the degree of Justice Rattigan; and

WHEREAS, The Santa Rosa State Office Building, located at 50 D Street in the City of Santa Rosa within the County of Sonoma, would provide a unique and appropriate opportunity to honor one of



Sonoma County's and California's truly outstanding citizens and public servants; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Santa Rosa State Office Building, located at 50 D Street in the City of Santa Rosa within the County of Sonoma, is hereby redesignated the Justice Joseph A. Rattigan Building; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of General Services is requested to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers, consistent with the signing requirements for state buildings, showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those plaques and markers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Director of General Services.

